



**MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Meeting:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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**Present:** S Pryce (Chair), D Smith (Head Teacher), K Vallance (Vice-Chair/Secretary), I Phillips, A Rose, A Blair, J Scott, S Hussain, S Sheikh, S Sadiq, G Gass, E Morrison, M Johnston

**Apologies:** Cllr Bamforth, Cllr Swift, J Thomson, E Jones

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**1. Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Accepted on the proposal of S Sadiq and seconded by S Pryce.

**2. Matters Arising:**

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

**3. Correspondence:**

S Pryce outlined the need for a central email hub facility for the dissemination of information to the Parent Council. I Phillips to assist. Detailed information to be issued post meeting on the following subjects:

- Connect Membership & Training Courses – basic summary information distributed at meeting
- Gambling Support for Parent Council Members – Raffle organisation, etc
- Empowerment for Parent Council Chairs
- Local Development Plan 2 – Education Issues

**4. Head Teachers Report:**

Positive Mental Health Strategy at MCHS

*Presentation by Roseann Cartledge, Principal Teacher Pupil Support – MCHS*

Overview & Strategy - 1 in 10, 5 to 16 year olds with a clinical diagnosable mental illness

School Context and role of PSE embedded in curriculum for S1 to S6

- Pro-active approach required
- New Programme starting in S3 and S5 working in collaboration with Mental Health UK
- Voluntary Mindfulness Programme for S4 pupils running for 10-12 weeks
- Respond wisely – not react blindly
- Positive Mental Health Improvement Team – Running for 4 years
- Managing Anxiety Booklet draft issued at meeting for brief review (link to MCHS website for e-booklet, further apps, important website links all as a resource for pupils, staff and parents)

S Pryce noted how useful it was to have a tool for discussion with parents and children.

D Smith asked parents to take away and come back with comments and any added value assistance as well as first hand experience of any issues and ideas for further work in this area.

D Smith noted that this presentation would be the first of many on specific school improvement plan items. Next PC meeting will have a presentation on Digital Learning Work in School and concentrate on items such as a classroom in a box.

D Smith noted that the ERC Education Department had submitted a bid for funding for development of a synthetic pitch and running track at the bottom of the hill to the rear of the school. A decision is expected by February 2020. The entire council agreed this was a priority resource for a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.



#### **4. Head Teachers Report: /Cont'd**

D Smith confirmed that a meeting had taken place on gender-based attainment with a representative from Education Scotland to commence working with MCHS. Fiona Shaw will be presenting to staff shortly. Work commences from next years' session.

S Pryce noted the proposed structured way forward. E Morrison asked if the programme was linked to other feeder primary schools of MCHS. D Smith was not aware of this but noted there was room to roll out to all cluster heads to ensure early intervention.

#### **5. Finance Update:**

A Rose confirmed that there is a balance of £752.09 in the PTA bank account.

Expenditure in the period related to the purchase of the first prize item for the School Raffle (Mac Book £988\*), the licence for the raffle and the raffle tickets. A Rose noted that the Mac Book came with an extras bundle including Beats which would themselves be separate raffle prizes.

*\* - Refer to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 minutes for PC approval of expenditure for first prize Mac Book.*

#### **6. PTA Update:**

Raffle tickets to go on sale at next Parent's Night on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019. S4 parents' night was missed for ticket sales but year group will be caught next year. Raffle draw to be held at the Spring Concert. Target fund raising for the raffle is £5,000. A Rose noted that the PTA had secured 6 main local businesses as sponsors for the raffle.

E Morrison enquired if there was an age limit for raffle ticket purchase. A Rose/A Blair to check and confirm.

S Sadiq queried the consent process for authorising expenditure of the PTA. S Pryce noted that the PTA table proposals for expenditure and the Parent Council discuss these during each meeting. If there is majority consent the proposed expenditure is approved by the Parent Council. Reference was made to previous approved expenditure on items such as S1 French dictionaries and two items of fitness equipment for the school gym.

A Blair confirmed that Quiz tickets were still available from the school shop (MCHS Online). Quiz taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

#### **7. Any Other Business:**

No further business was discussed.

#### **8. Next Meeting:**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 @ 7pm